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Patent Number 367523
Title Method for evacuating and sealing field emission displays
Publication Date 1999/08/21
Certification_Number 105760
Application Date 1996/11/07
Application No. 085113617
IPC H01J-009/39;H01J-009/40
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Priority Number 1995/09/29 US19950538498
Abstract A method for evacuating and sealing a field emission display package is provided. The method includes forming a cover plate, a backplate, and a peripheral seal therebetween. The backplate is formed as a sub-assembly which includes a seal ring and a getter material. The seal ring includes compressible protrusions for initially separating the cover plate from the seal ring to provide evacuation openings. During a sealing and evacuation process the packages are placed in the reaction chamber of a furnace. The pressure in the reaction chamber is then reduced and the temperature is increased in a staged sequence. During the evacuating and sealing process the evacuation openings formed by the compressible protrusions provide a flow path for evacuation. As the sealing and evacuation process continues, the compressible protrusions and seal ring flow and commingle to form the peripheral seal. At the same time the getter material is activated and pumps contaminants from the sealed spaced formed within the package.

Patent Right Change	Application number	085113617
	Licensing	No
	Mortgage	No
	Transfer	Yes
	Succession	No
	Trust	No
	Opposition	No
	Invalidation	No
	Cessation	
	Revocation	
	Issue date of patent right	19990821
	Patent grant date	20161108
	Maintenance fee due	20090820
	Years of maintenance paid	010